

Message Text

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TO ALL EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS

AMCONSUL MELBOURNE

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 261642

STADIS//////////

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OGEN, AS

SUBJECT: STATUS REPORT - AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND, PAPUA
NEW GUINEA AND PACIFIC ISLANDS

1. MULDOON VISIT. THE BULK OF OUR TIME FOR THE PAST TEN
DAYS HAS BEEN TAKEN UP IN PREPARATIONS FOR THE MULDOON
VISIT. THE VARIOUS PAPERS ARE GENERALLY ON TRACK AND WE
SHOULD HAVE NO INSURMOUNTABLE DIFFICULTIES IN MEETING
MOST DEADLINES. WE ARE HAVING PROBLEMS WITH THE PENTAGON
WHICH HAS INDICATED IT WANTS TO CANCEL MULDOON'S MEETING
WITH SECRETARY BROWN AND HAS NOT NOMINATED A SUBSTITUTE.

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2. MICRONESIAN STATUS NEGOTIATIONS. THE JULY 25-27
POLITICAL STATUS NEGOTIATIONS IN MOLOKAI BEGAN A DAY
LATE TO PERMIT THE THREE MICRONESIAN DELEGATIONS TO
REACH AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF
AN ALL-MICRONESIAN ENTITY FOLLOWING THE TERMINATION
OF THE UN TRUSTEESHIP. FOLLOWING THE ALL MICRONESIAN

SESSIONS, THE NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES TOOK PLACE ON A MULTILATERAL AND BILATERAL LEVEL AND WERE CONDUCTED IN A BUSINESSLIKE AND FRIENDLY MATTER. THE CONCEPT OF FREE ASSOCIATION WAS EXPLORED IN SEVERAL SESSIONS AND US-MICRONESIAN DEFENSE ARRANGEMENTS WERE DISCUSSED. THE MICRONESIANS ALSO AGREED TO PARTICIPATE AS PART OF THE US DELEGATION AT THE FORTH COMING MEETING IN SUVA TO DISCUSS THE CREATION OF A SOUTH PACIFIC REGIONAL FISHERIES AGENCY. THE NEXT ROUND OF STATUS NEGOTIATIONS IS EXPECTED TO TAKE PLACE IN HONOLULU NO LATER THAN JANUARY 5, 1978.

3. PERSONNEL. AMBASSADOR SELDEN ARRIVED THIS MORNING FOR CONSULTATIONS PRIOR TO PRIME MINISTER MULDOON'S VISIT. HE WILL REMAIN IN WASHINGTON UNTIL NOVEMBER 17. AMBASSADOR OLMSTED ARRIVES OVER THE WEEKEND AND WILL BE HERE UNTIL MID-DECEMBER. THE BULK OF HER TIME WILL BE SPENT ON THE PROMOTION PANEL BUT SHE WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR CONSULTATIONS AS SOON AS THE BOARD HAS COMPLETED ITS WORK.

4. AUSTRALIAN ELECTIONS. PRIME MINISTER FRASER HAS CALLED FOR ELECTIONS TO TAKE PLACE DECEMBER 10. VOTERS WILL ELECT AN ENTIRELY NEW HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND ONE HALF OF THE SENATE. THE PUNDITS, INCLUDING EA/ANP, EXPECT THE LIBERAL/COUNTRY PARTY COALITION TO BE RETURNED BUT WITH A CONSIDERABLY REDUCED MAJORITY --
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SAY 5-15 SEATS INSTEAD OF THE PRESENT 55. HOWEVER, A REDUCED MAJORITY SHOULD PROVE WORKABLE AND IS UNLIKELY TO CAUSE FRASER ANY MAJOR PROBLEMS EITHER IN GOVERNING OR IN CONTROLLING HIS OWN PARTY. VANCE

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